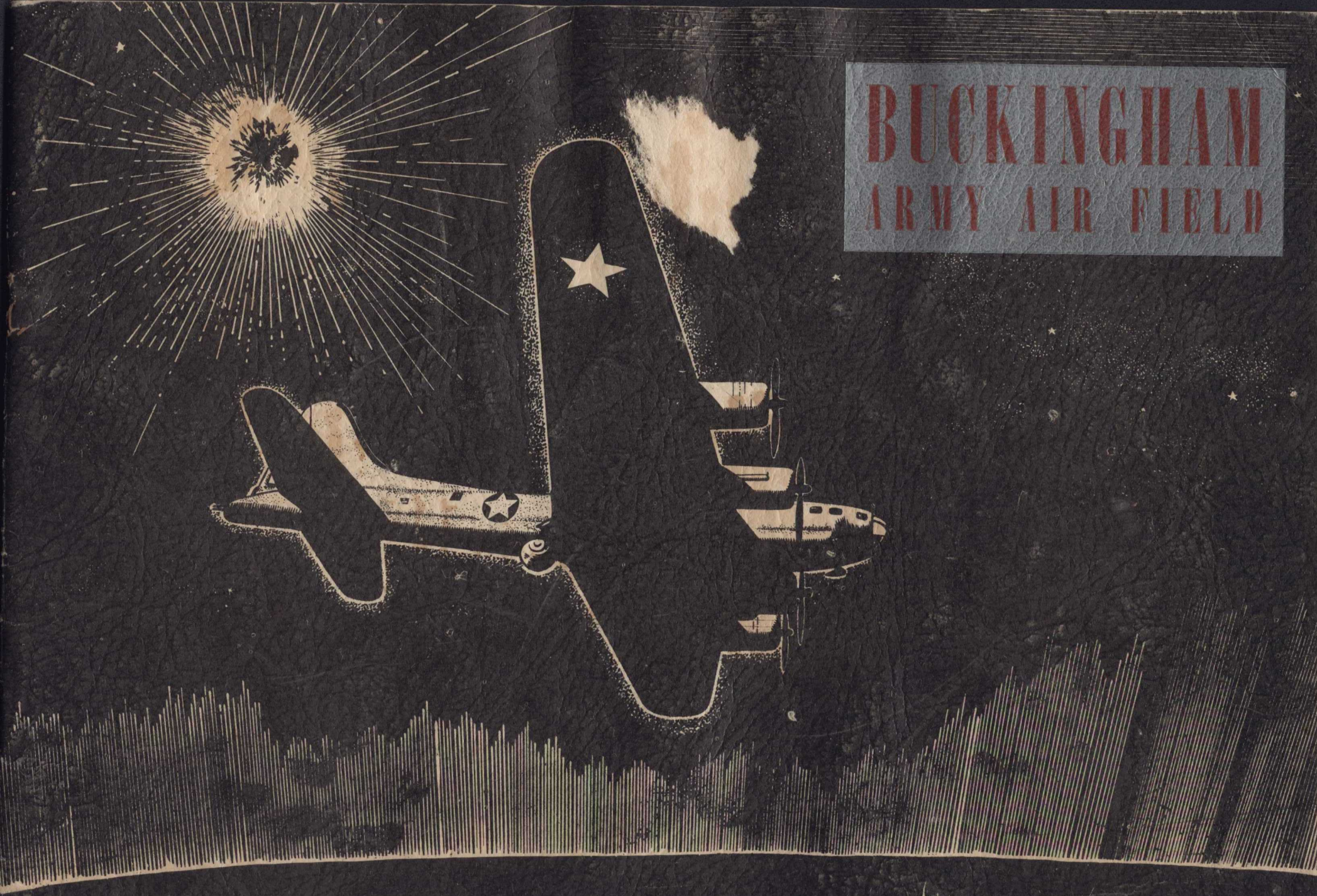
BUCKINGHAM
ARMY AIR FIELD



FORT MYERS, FLA.

The Flying Fortress

With tails half gone, with fuselages riddled with bullets, with only two motors in operation, the proud "Queens of the Skies", the Flying Fortresses, have brought new honor and glory to the name of American aviation.

Many of the aerial gunners who receive their wings at Buckingham Field will join Fortress crews after their graduation here—and then they will go overseas to battle America's enemies in the B-17's.

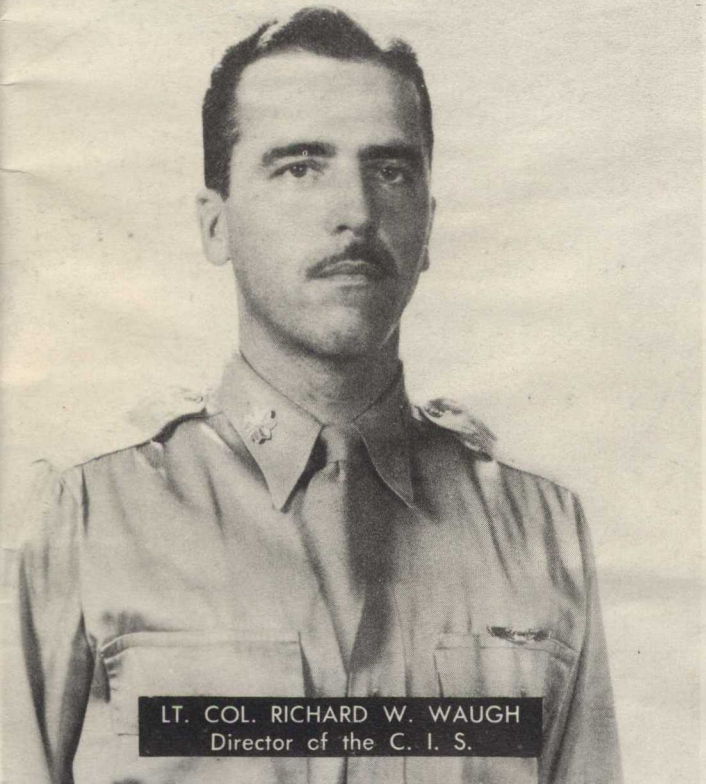
For no ship does the crew have more affection than for the Fortresses. Men in theaters all over the world have gladly risked their lives to save these ships. They know that the Fortress, in turn, will do more than its share of the job.

Protecting the Fortresses are the turrets in which the gunners sit—alert, always watching, waiting for an enemy plane to attack. When that attack comes, the gunner will have at his command the world's finest machine guns to give America's answer to defiance of our ideals of freedom, of liberty—of every man's right to the pursuit of happiness.

This field—Buckingham, we call it—is here for only one purpose—to train men to operate these turrets. Every person on this field is dedicated to this job. We can do no less than turn out the world's finest gunners for the turrets of the "Queens of the Skies."

And so we dedicate this book to the Flying Fortress and the men who make this ship —in which any gunner would be proud to fly.

COLONEL D. W. JENKINS
Commanding Officer



LT. COL. RICHARD W. WAUGH
Director of the C. I. S.

LT. COL. DANIEL I. MOLER
Director of Training

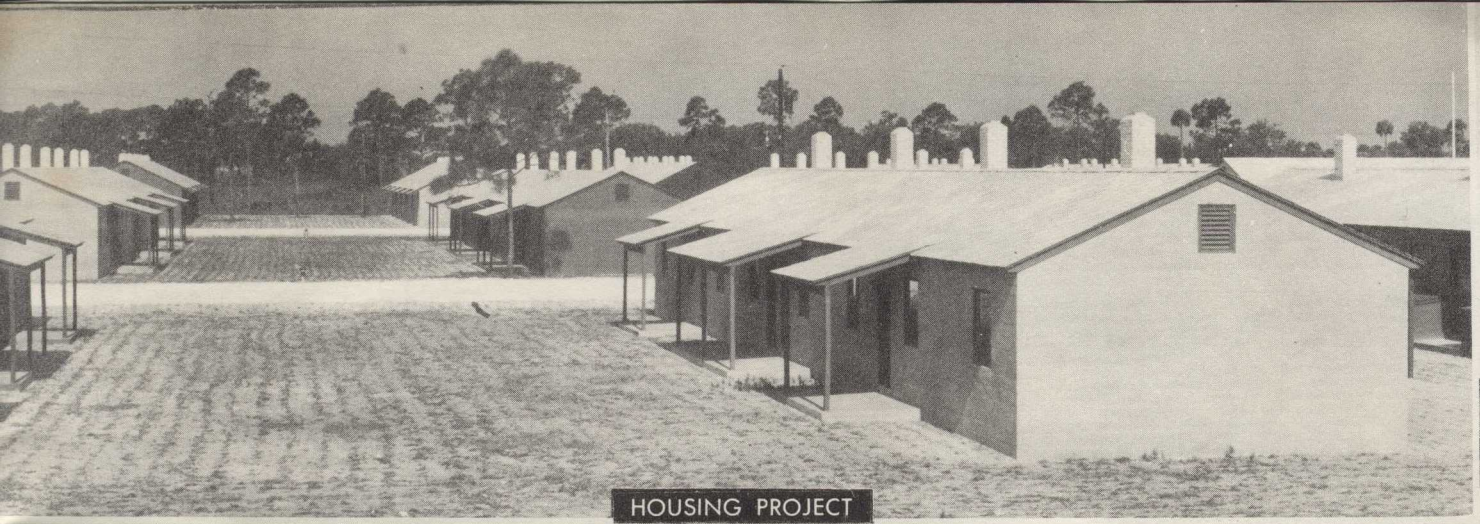
LT. COL. PORTER H. BOMAR
Executive

BUILDINGS

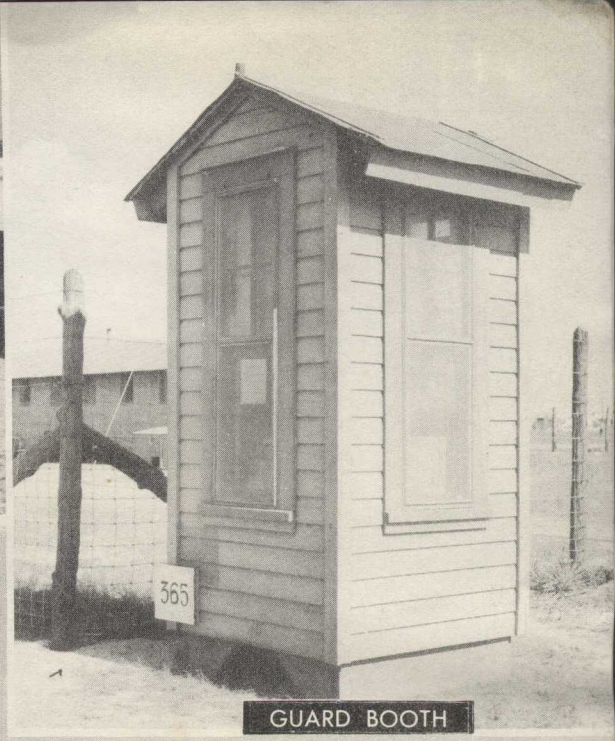
THE MAIN GATE

TOWN OF BUCKINGHAM

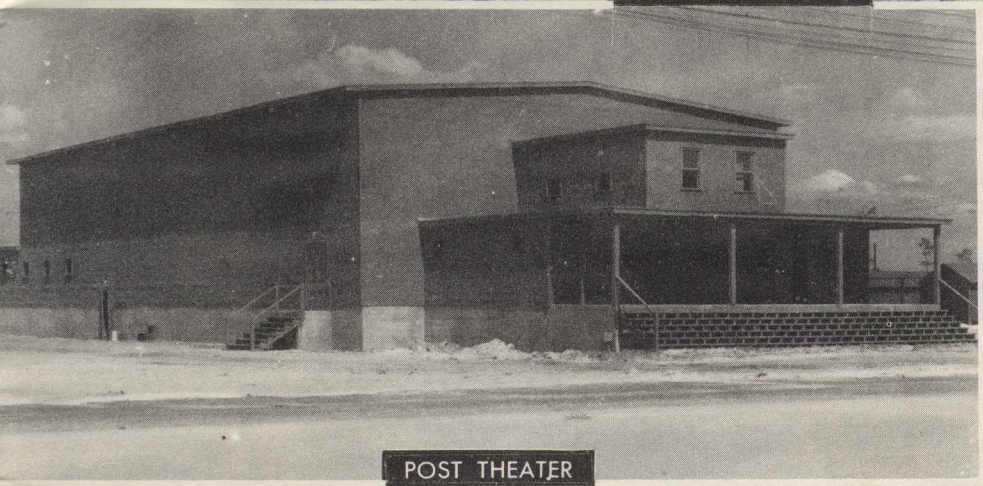
RECREATION HALL



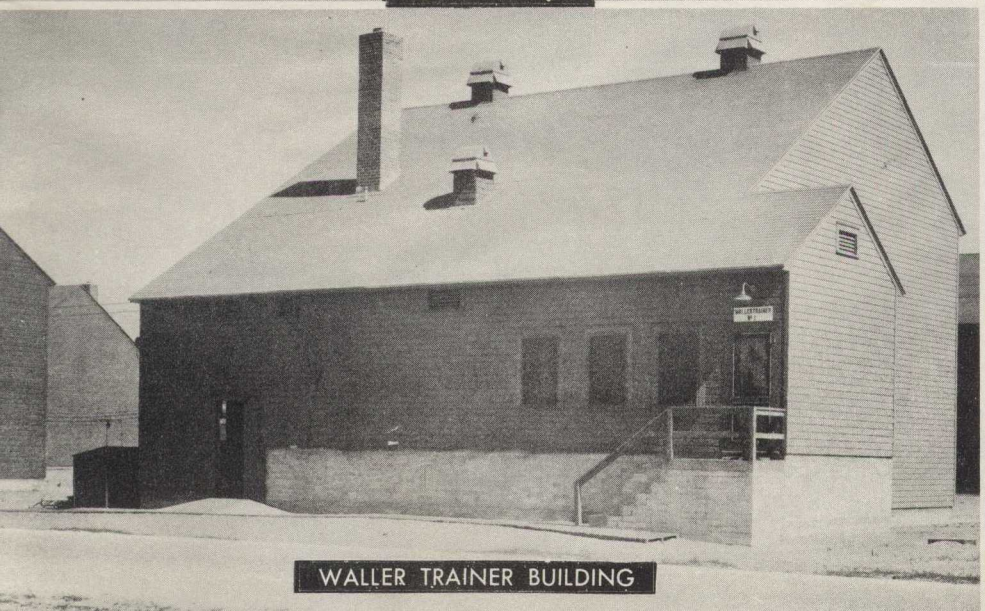
HOUSING PROJECT



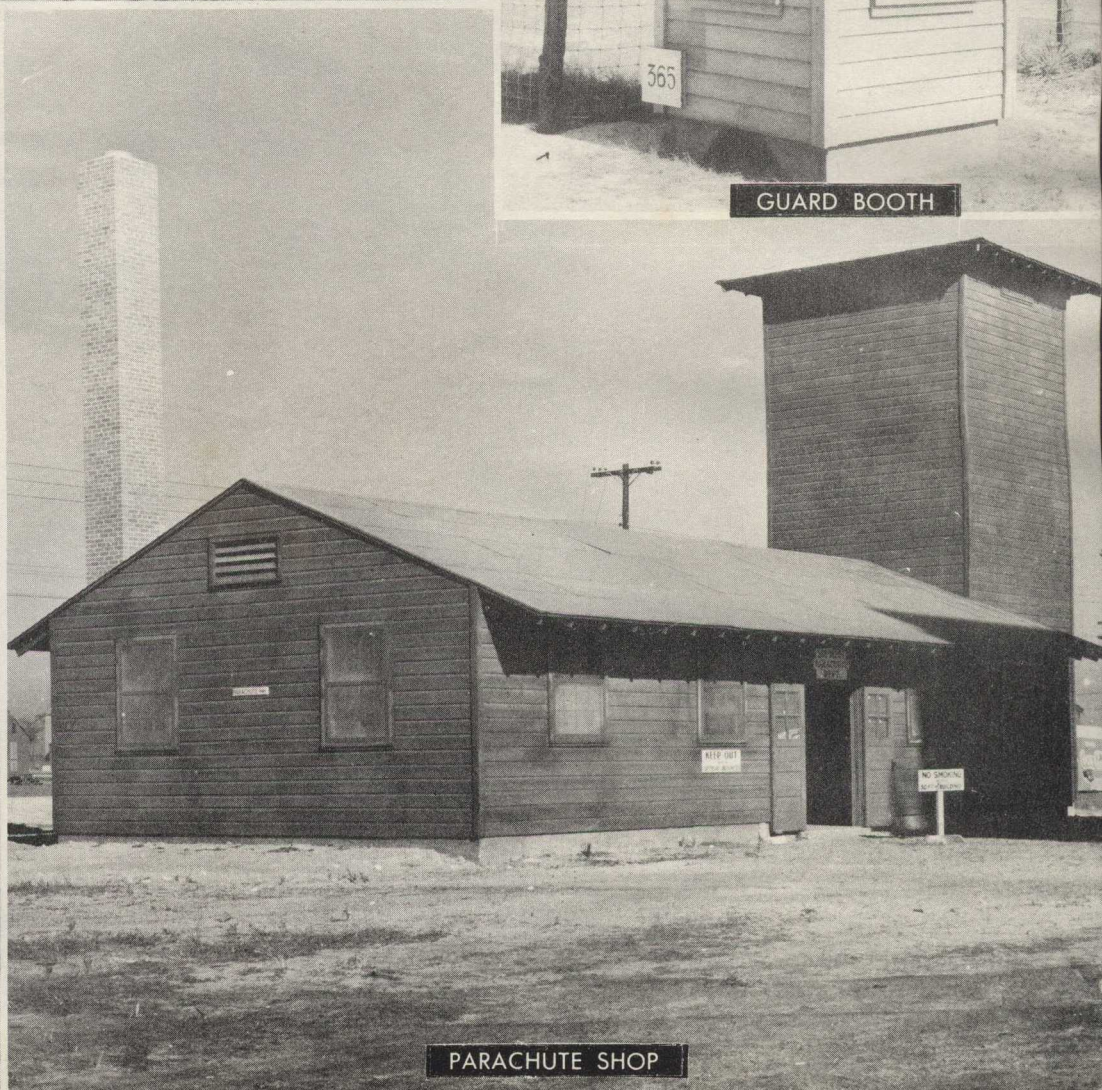
GUARD BOOTH



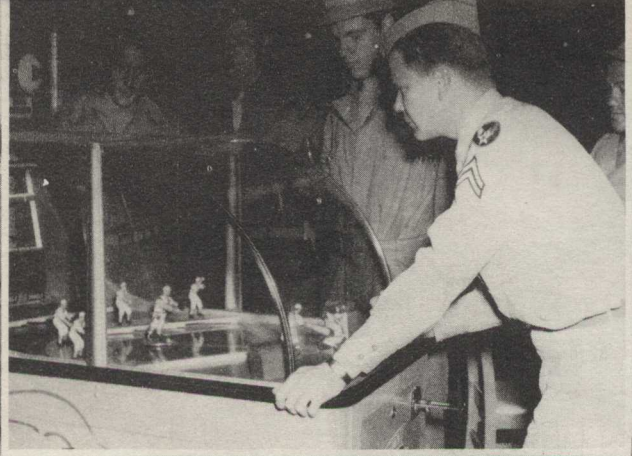
POST THEATER

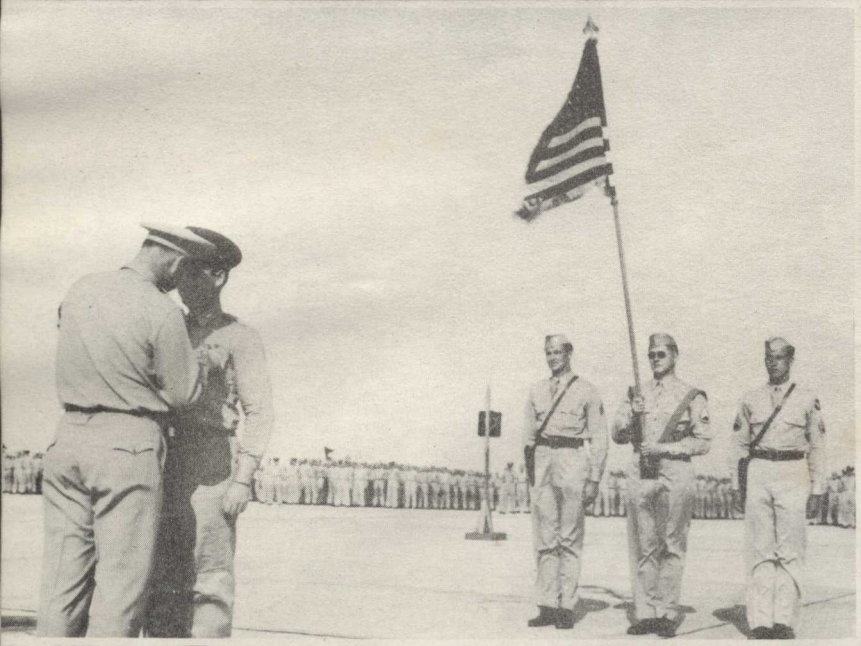


WALLER TRAINER BUILDING



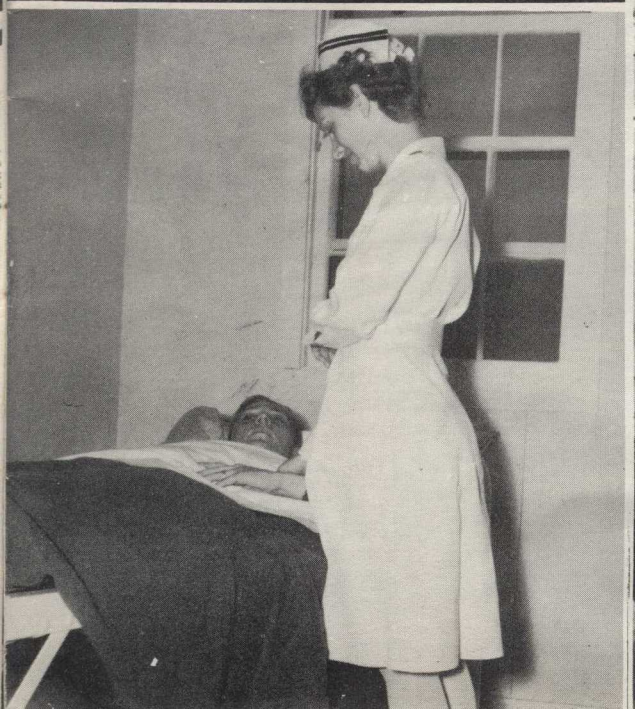
PARACHUTE SHOP



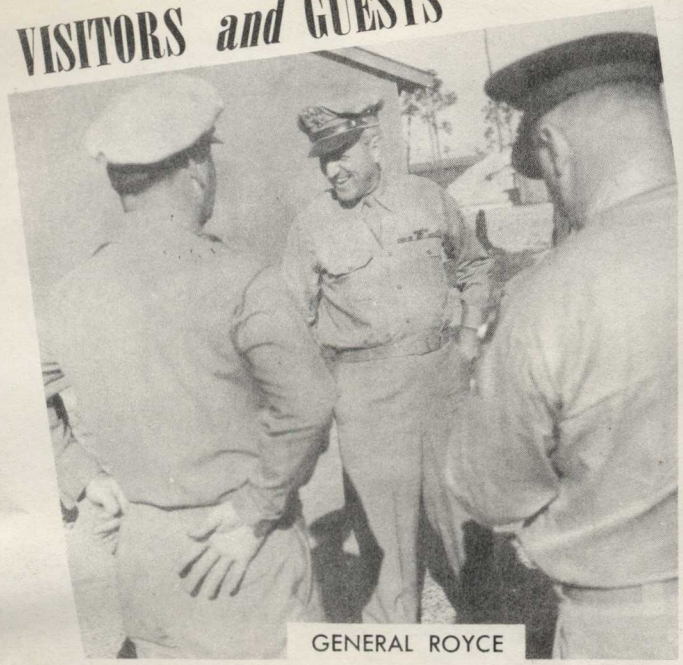


Buckingham

Glances



VISITORS *and* GUESTS



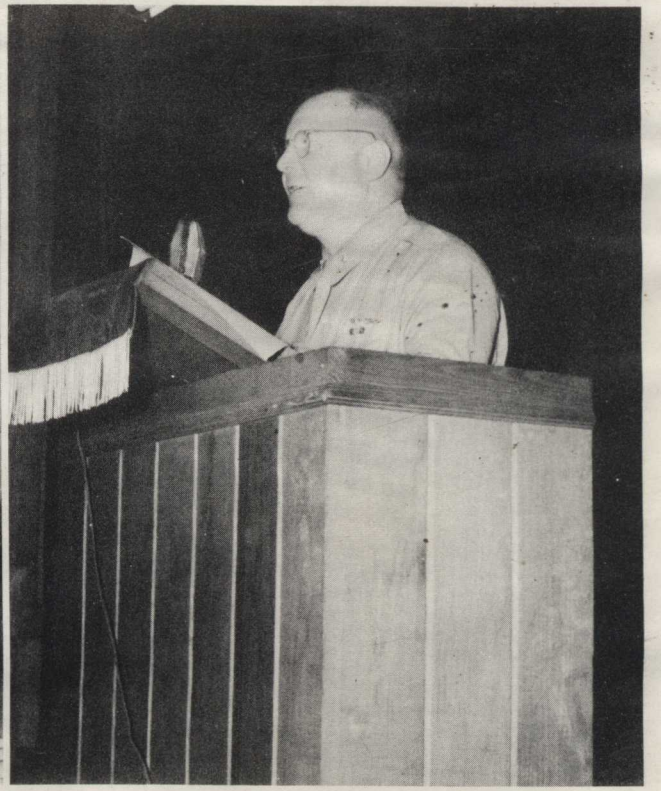
GENERAL ROYCE

GENERAL YOUNT

A GENERAL SHOOTS

GENERAL WILLIAMS and COLONEL JENKINS

GENERAL SHEN



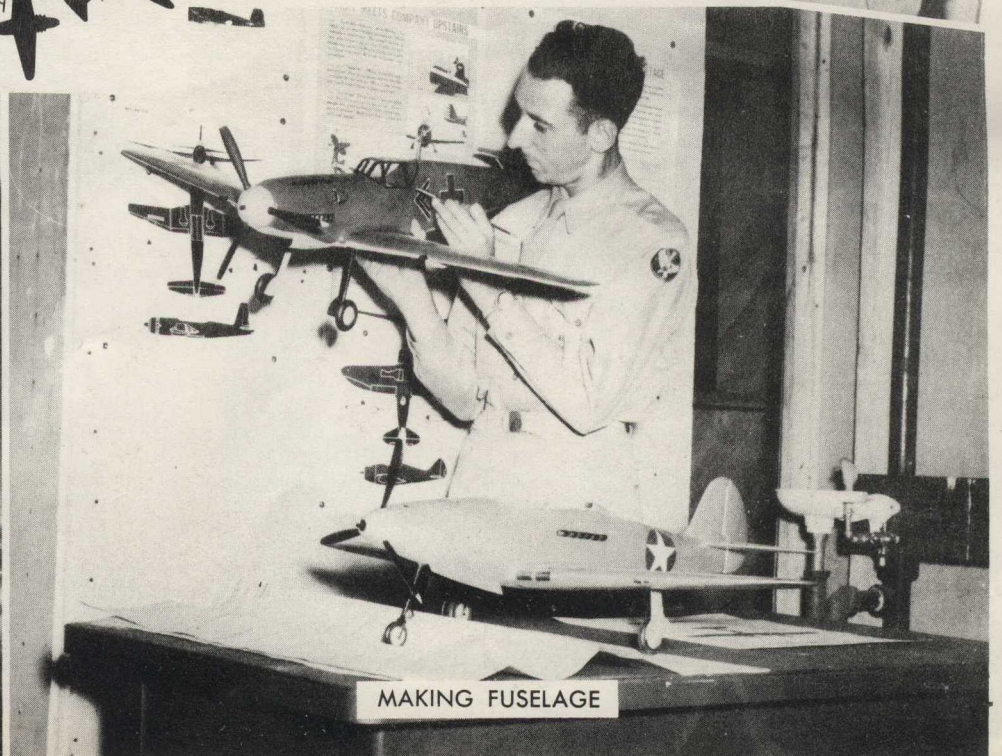
GENERAL WILLIAMS ADDRESSES

INSTRUCTION

AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION

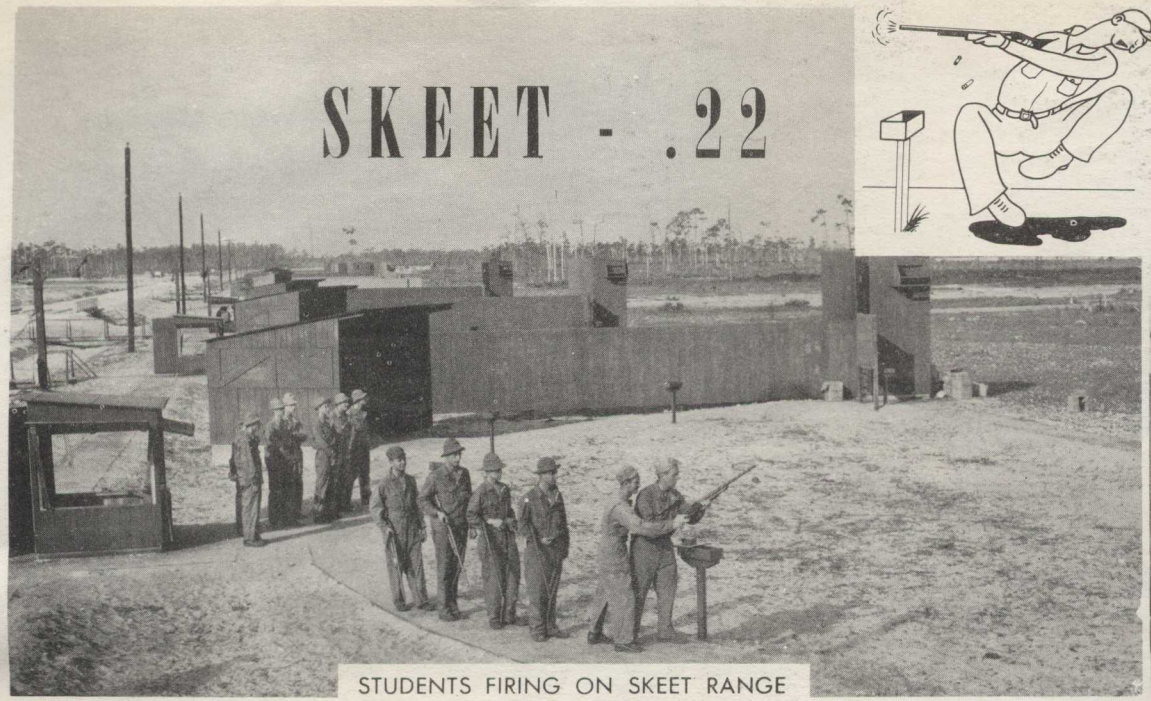
YOU MUST KNOW PLANES

INDOOR RANGE ESTIMATION DEVICE



MAKING FUSELAGE

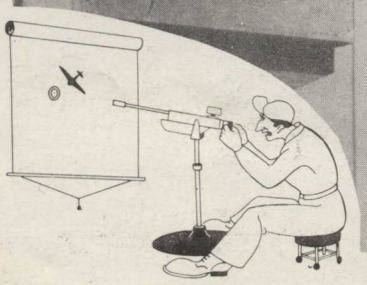
SKEET - .22



STUDENTS FIRING ON SKEET RANGE

CAPT. "BUDDY" JONES INSTRUCTING STUDENT

BUDDIES



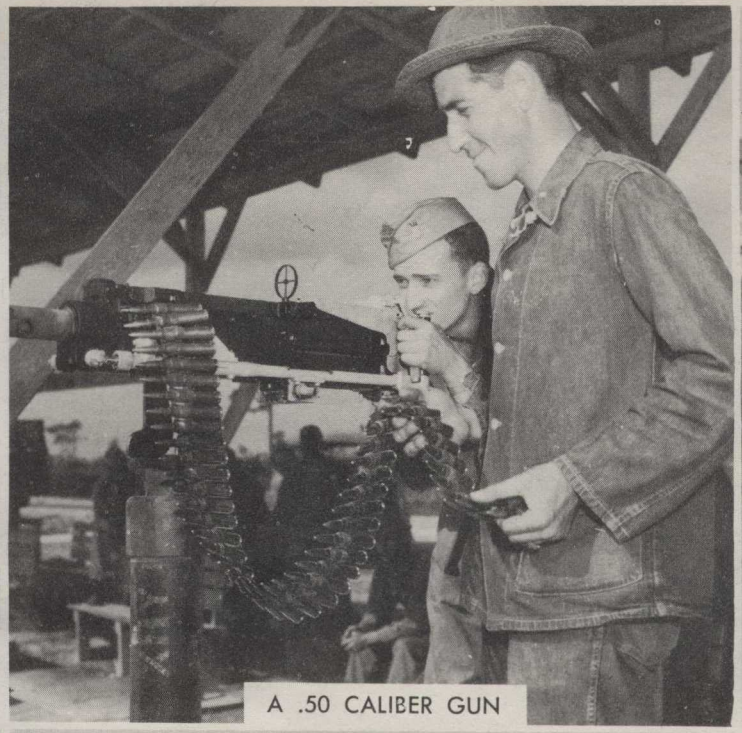
PULL MARK

THIS IS A GUN

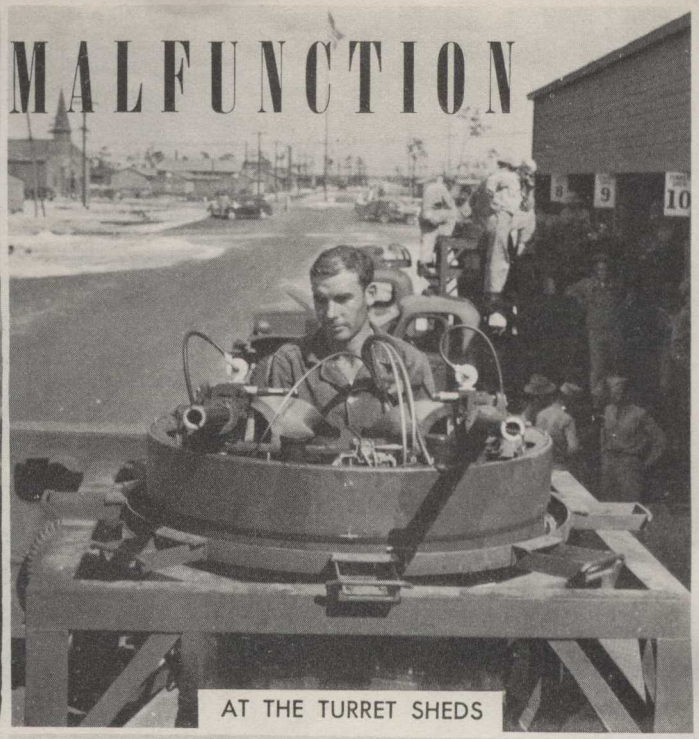
EXPLAINING THE .22 RIFLE

MALFUNCTION

LT. MASON EXPLAINS



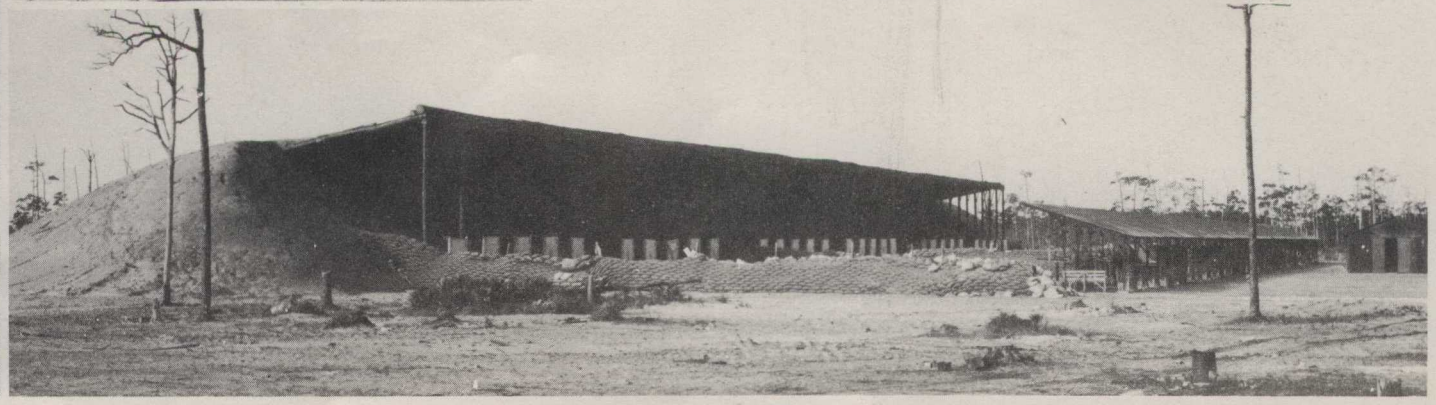
A .50 CALIBER GUN



AT THE TURRET SHEDS

COL. MOLER TRIES OUT

MALFUNCTION RANGE

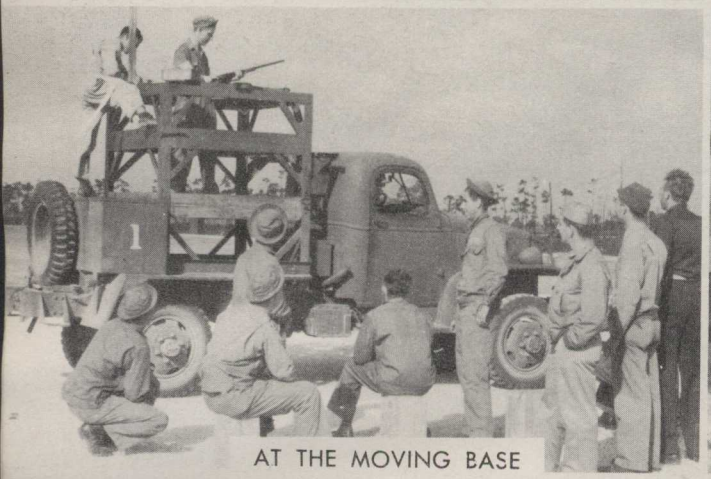


.22 RIFLE RANGE

MOVING BASE RANGE

TURRET TOWERS

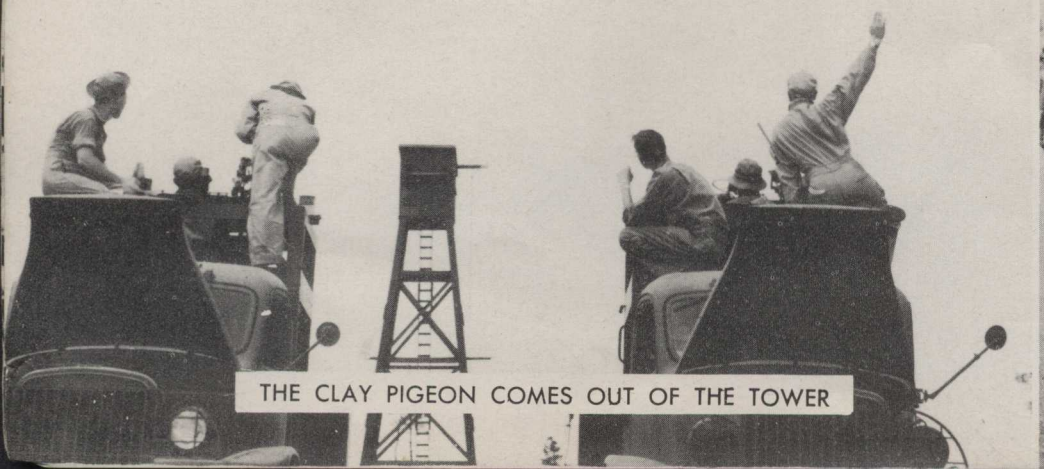
ON THE TRAIL



AT THE MOVING BASE

MOVING BASE

THE TURRET TOWERS



THE CLAY PIGEON COMES OUT OF THE TOWER

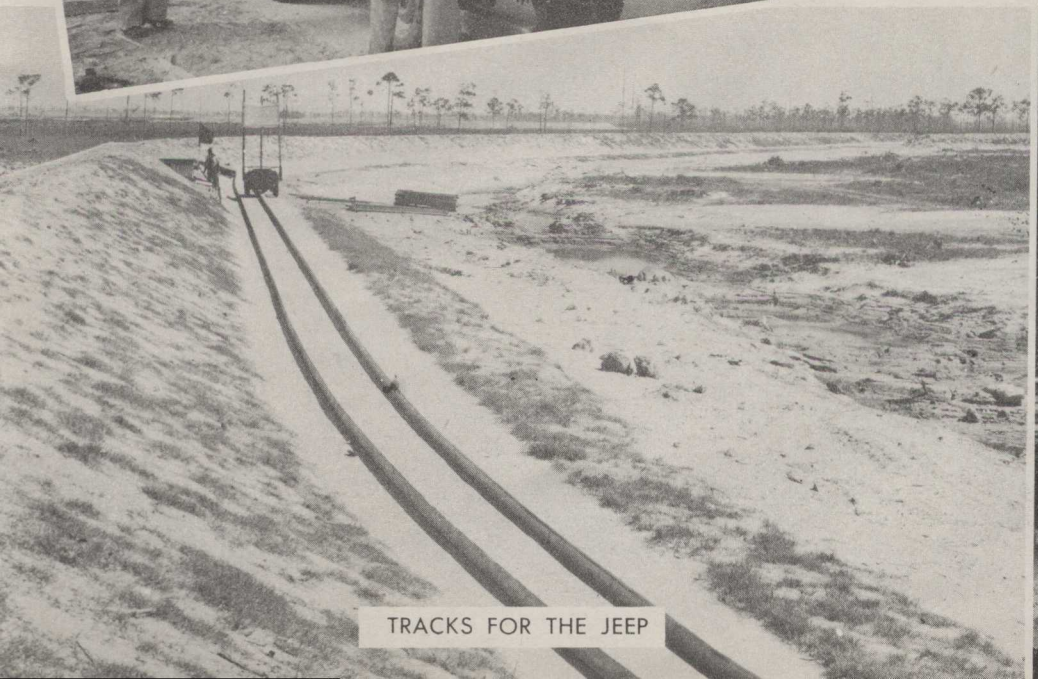
MARCHING TO WORK

JEEP RANGE

THE TARGET

THE FLAG FLIES

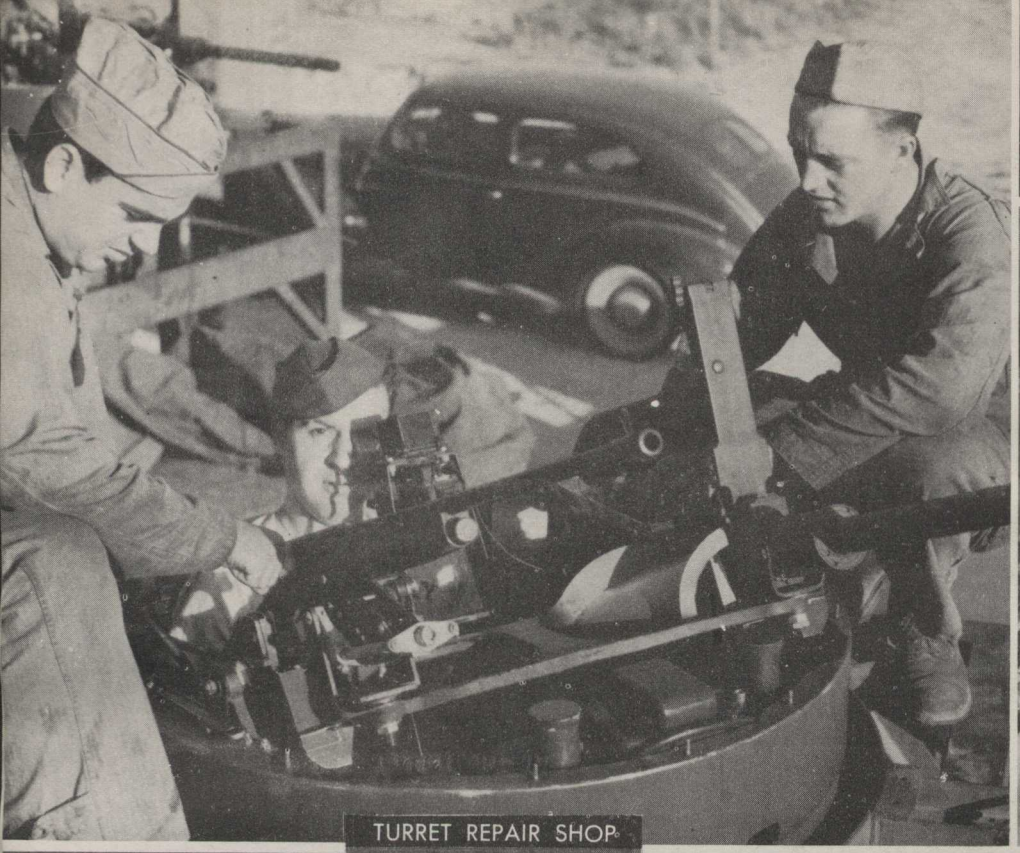
LEAVING THE JEEP



TRACKS FOR THE JEEP

NIGHT FIRING

MEN AT *WORK*

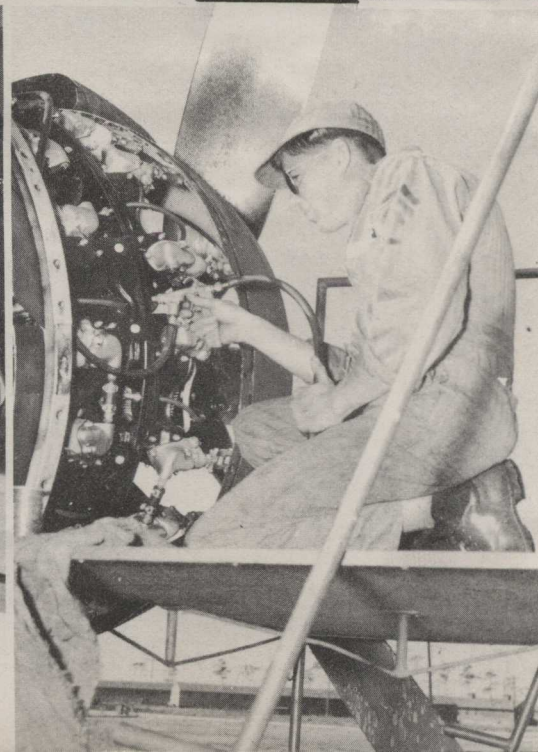


TURRET REPAIR SHOP

INSPECTING ENGINE

CHECKING

PACKING A CHUTE



THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT GO

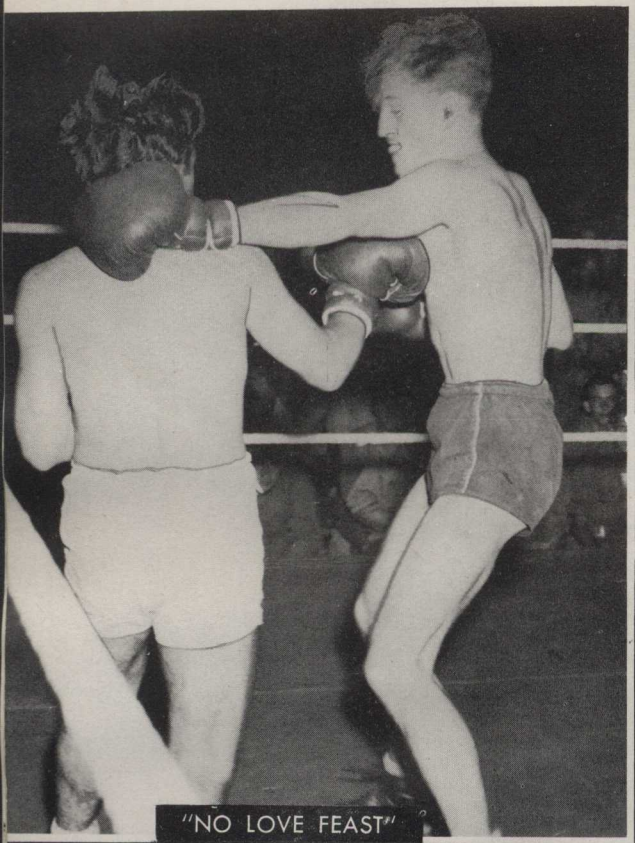
YES, SHE FLIES TOO

OPERATIONS

READY FOR TAKE OFF

READY TO GO

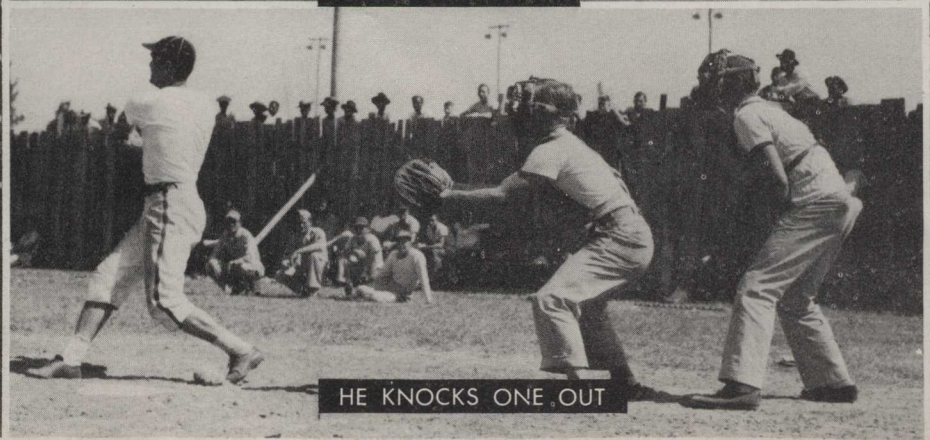
Sports



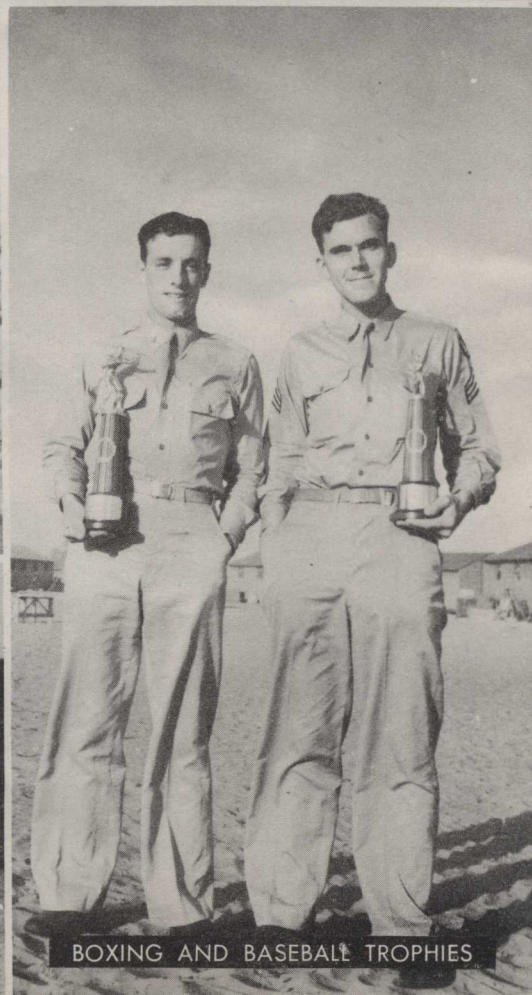
"NO LOVE FEAST"

BASEBALL TEAM

SLUG IT OUT . . .



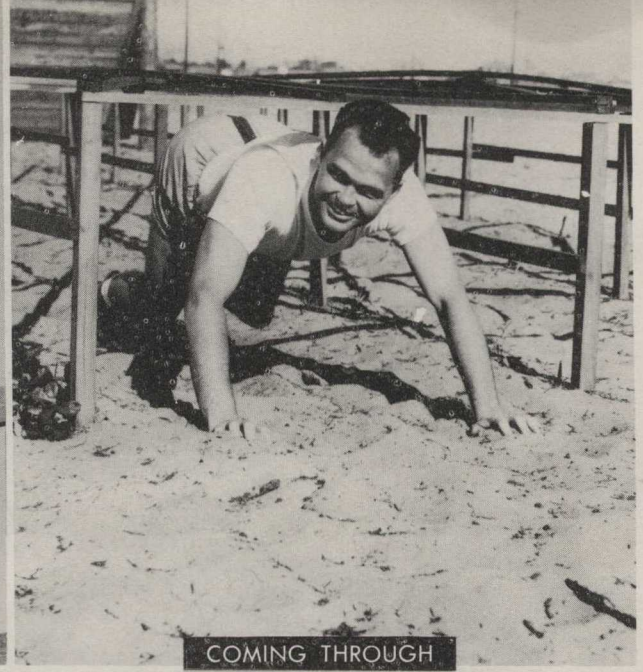
HE KNOCKS ONE OUT



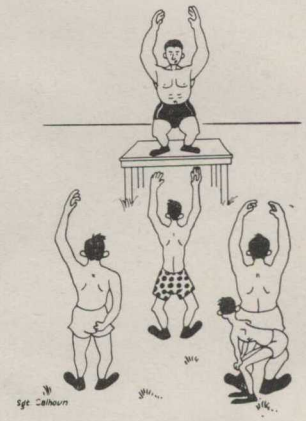
BOXING AND BASEBALL TROPHIES

KEEPING FIT

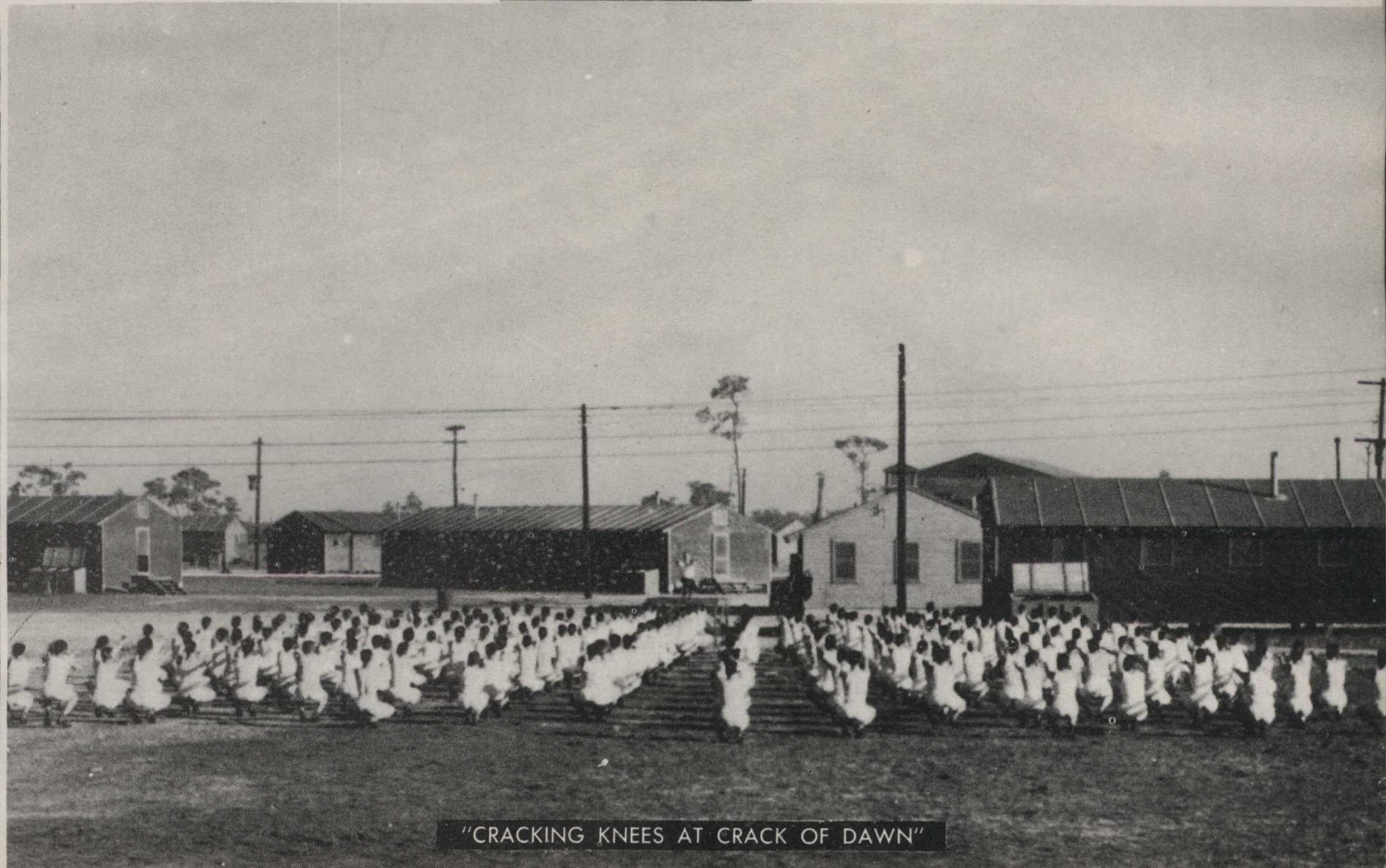
UP AND OVER . . .



COMING THROUGH



BOWLING CHAMP



"CRACKING KNEES AT CRACK OF DAWN"

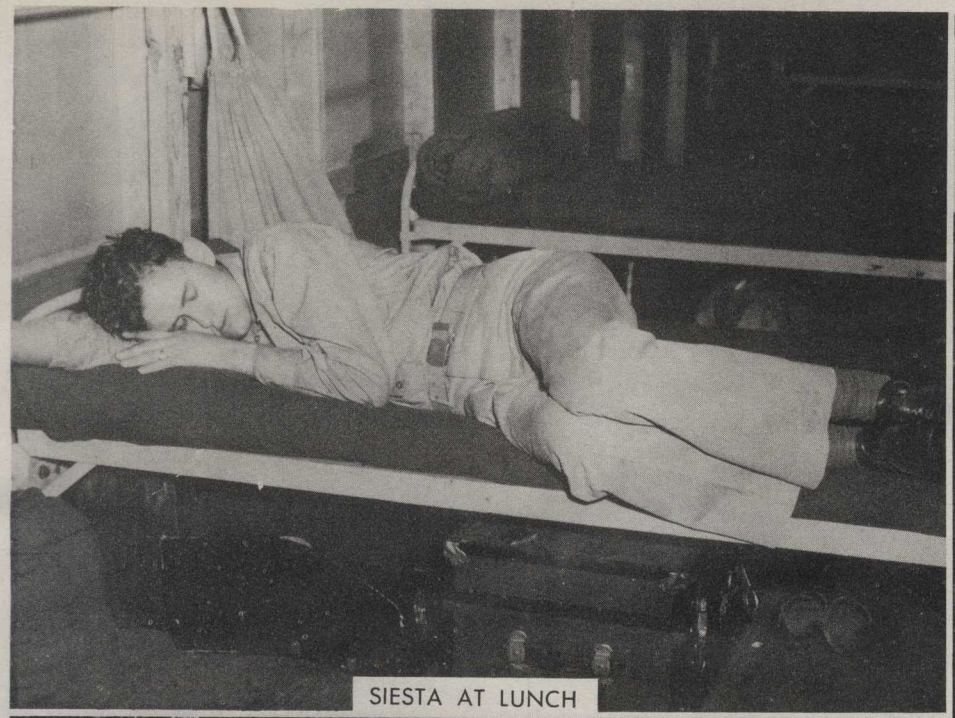
OFF THEY GO...

Into The Wild Blue Yonder

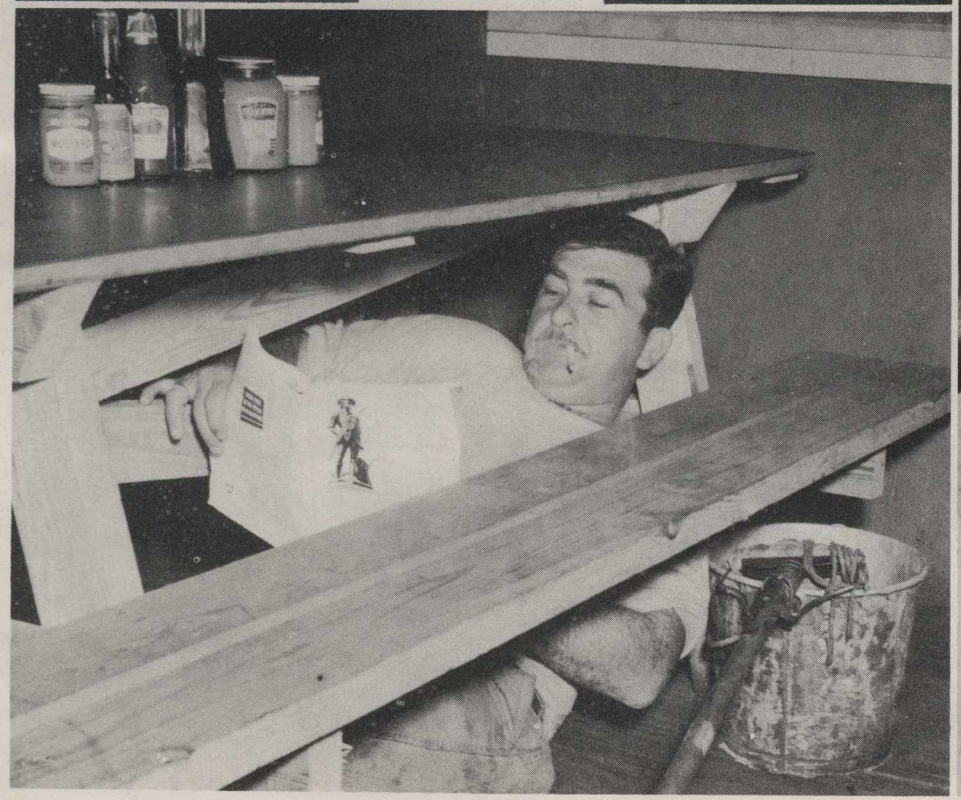
BARRACKS LIFE

PREPARING FOR INSPECTION

DAY ROOM



SIESTA AT LUNCH



KITCHEN POLICE . . . ?

CHOW LINE

Buckingham Exchange

HAND LOTION

YOU'D BE GLAD TO BE A MAJOR

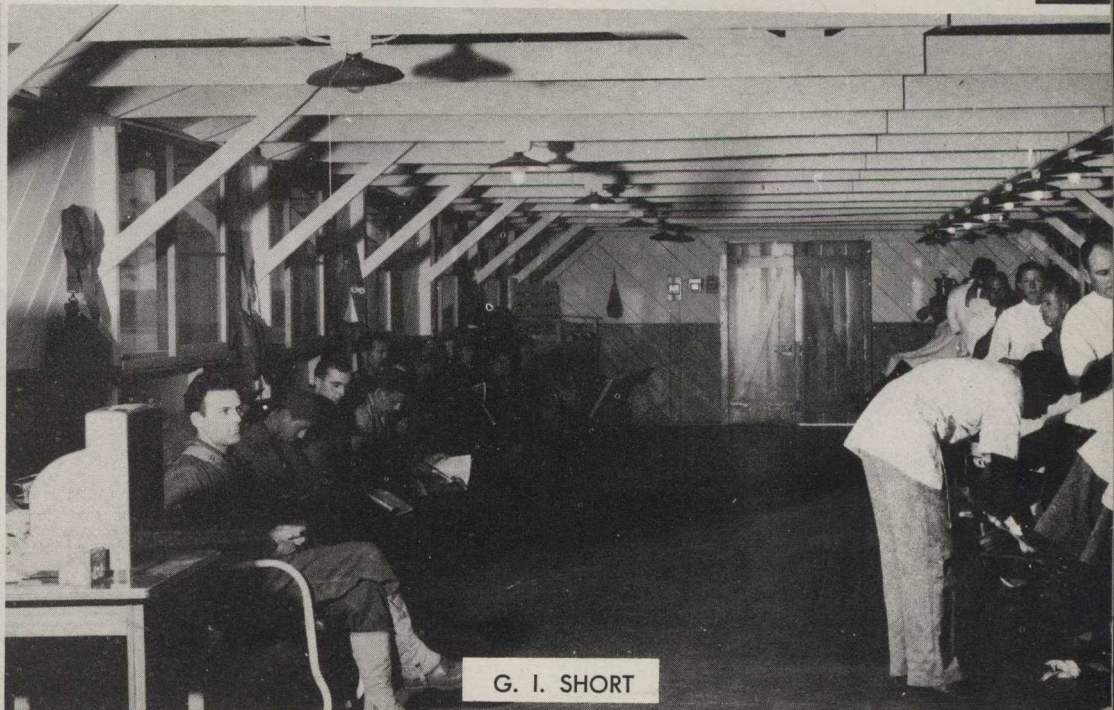
IT'S DRINK TIME

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

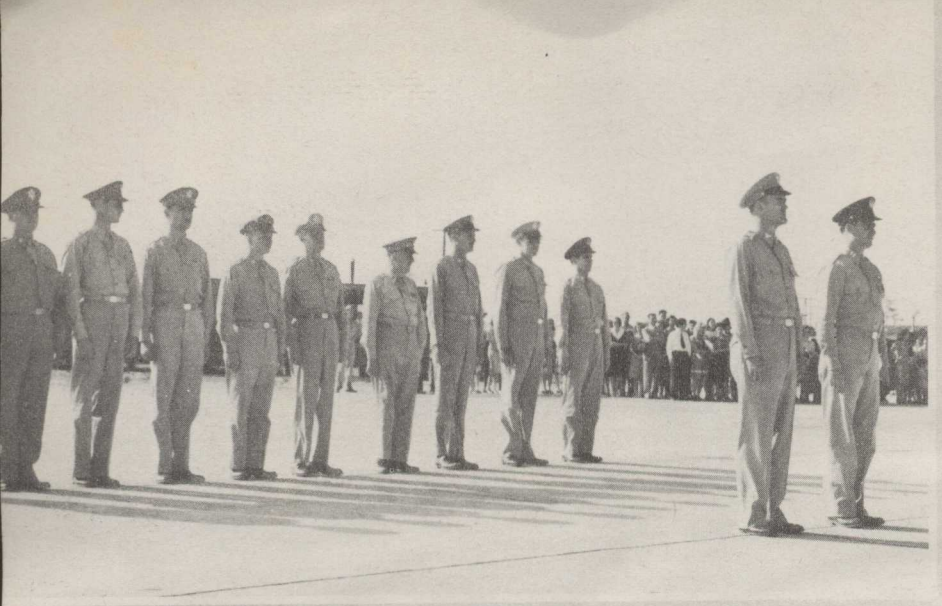
BUYING A BALL GLOVE . . . TAKES TIME

AND IT'S GUNS IN THEIR OFF HOURS

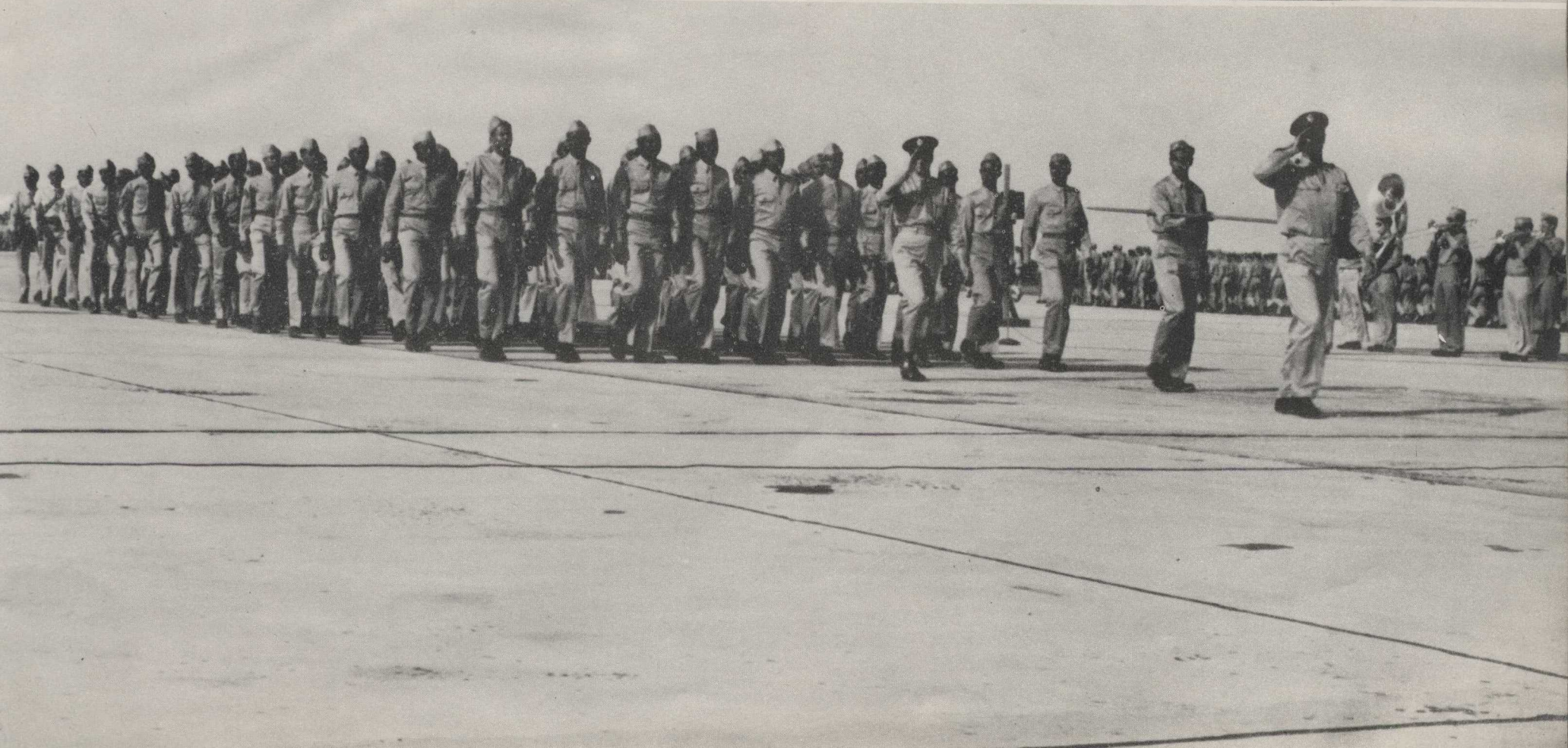
A "FRIENDLY M.P."



G. I. SHORT



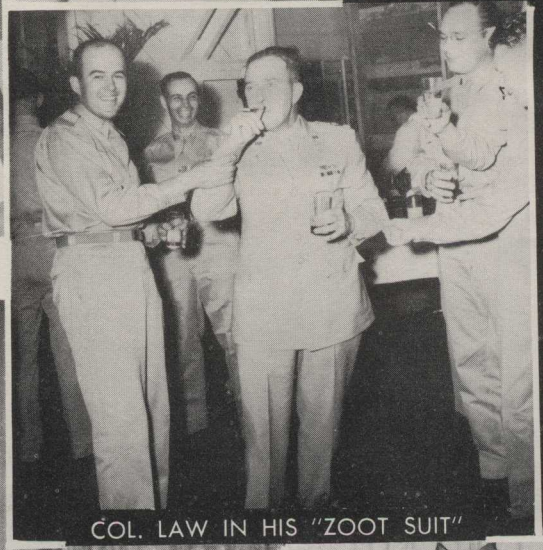
In REVIEW



AFTER FIVE

DANCE

WHOOPS! G. I. CHORUS



COL. LAW IN HIS "ZOOT SUIT"

SWEET MELODY

WE FURNISH THE MUSIC

FORT MYERS GIRLS ENTERTAIN

TOO MANY FOR A JEEP

CAPT. "BUDDY" JONES AND HIS TROPHIES

ON WATER FRONT . . . FT. MYERS

CHEERING SECTION

SPEAKERS' TABLE . . . BANQUET FOR COL. SPIVEY

OF INTEREST

BEFORE THE TAKE-OFF

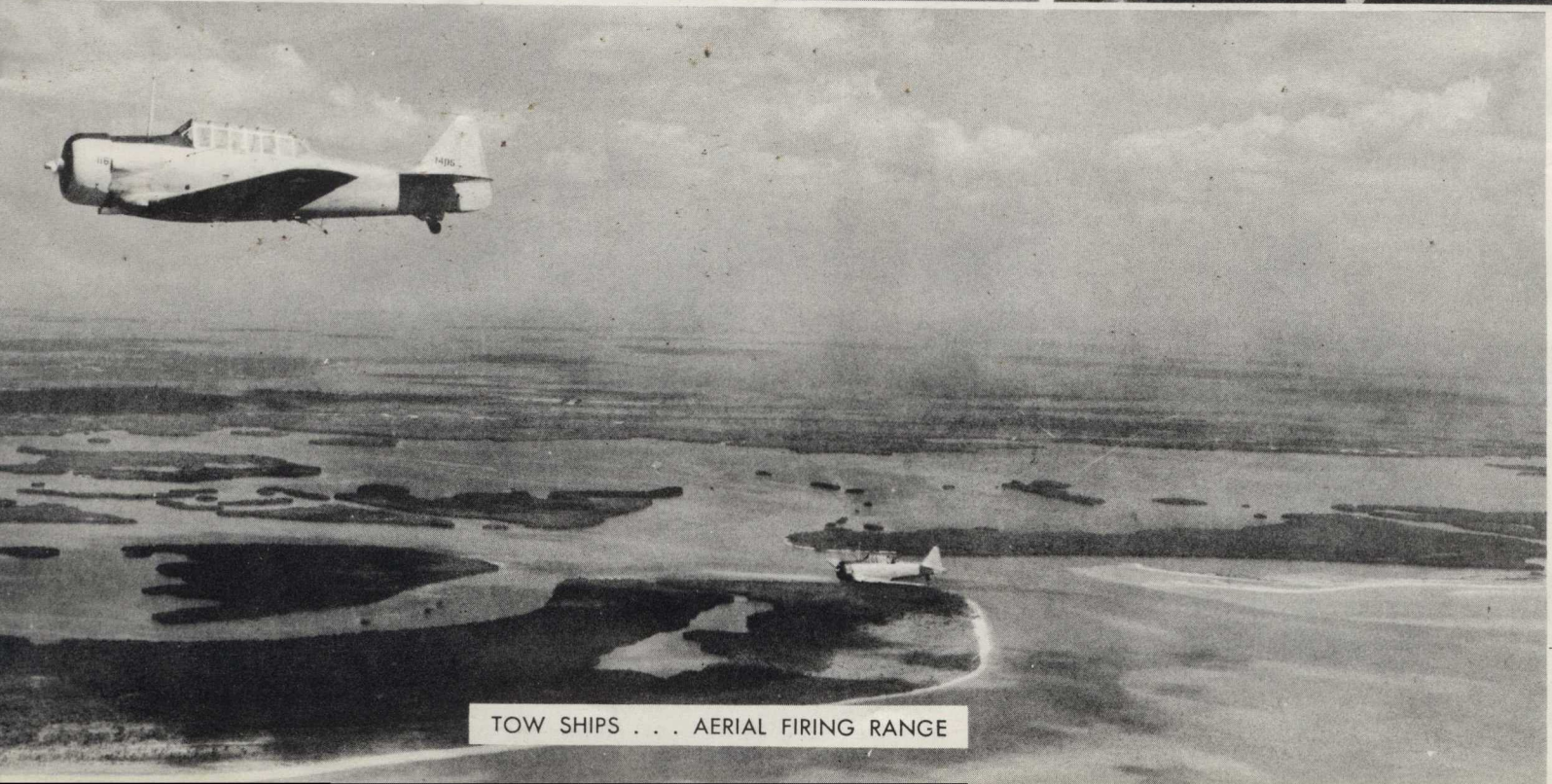
A T-11 TAXIS DOWN THE RAMP

READY TO GO

ON THE WAY TO THE FIRING RANGE

THINK YOU COULD HIT IT?

YEP, THAT'S DONALD DUCK



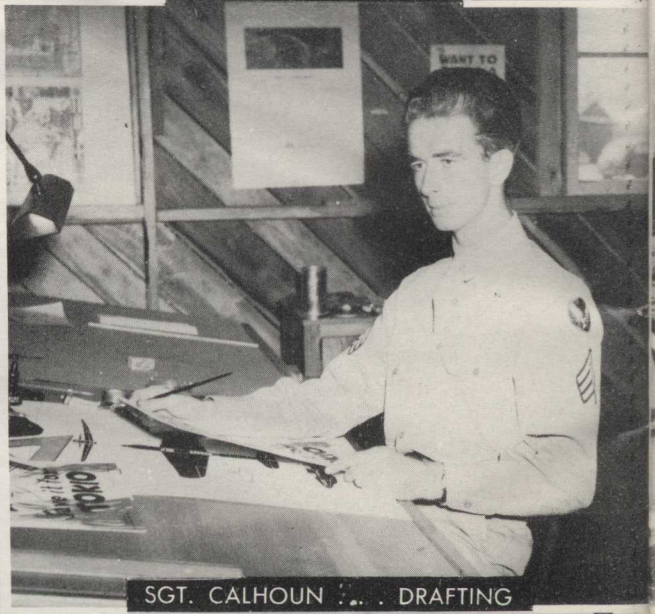
TOW SHIPS . . . AERIAL FIRING RANGE

HERE 'N THERE

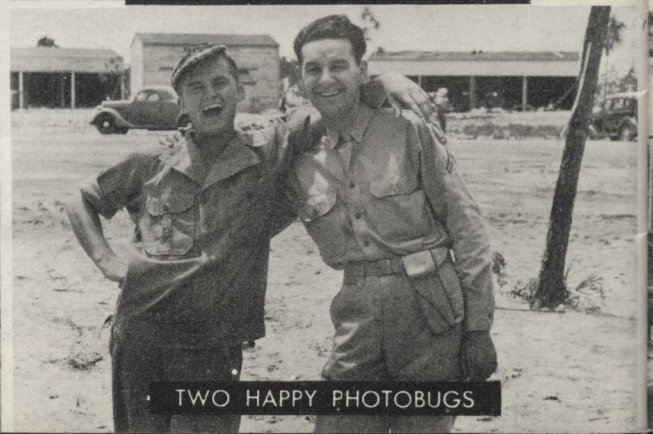
THESE ARE THE MEN WHO TOOK THE PICTURES

SHOOTING A PARADE

THE COLONEL AND MAJOR LOOK OVER SOME PHOTOS

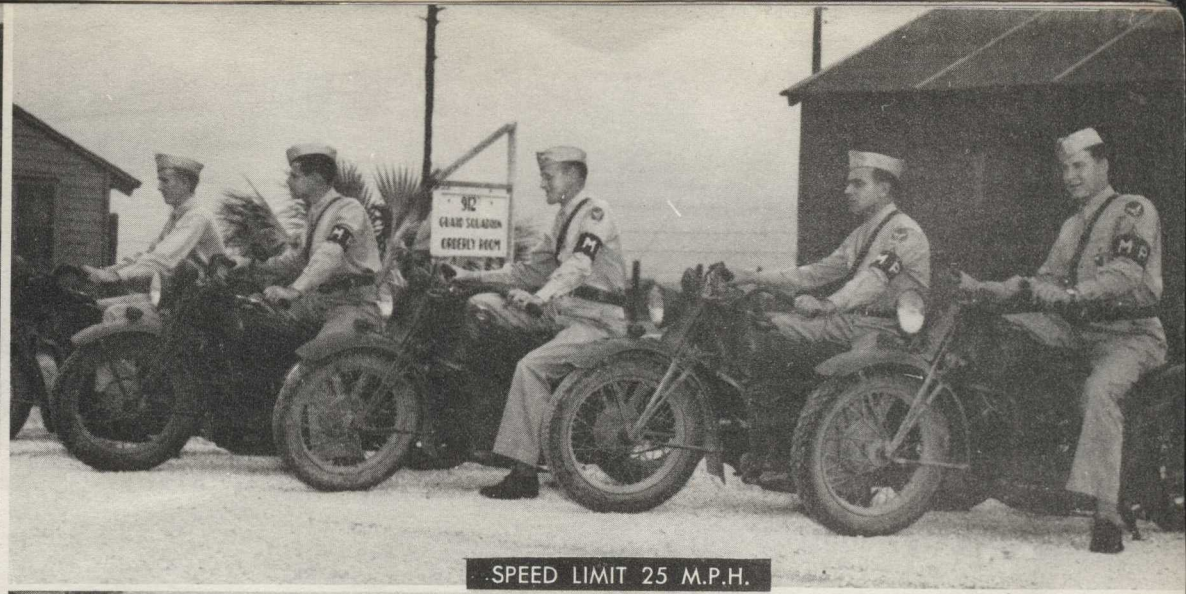


SGT. CALHOUN . . . DRAFTING



TWO HAPPY PHOTOBUGS

MILITARY POLICE


SPEED LIMIT 25 M.P.H.

PLANTING THE GRASS

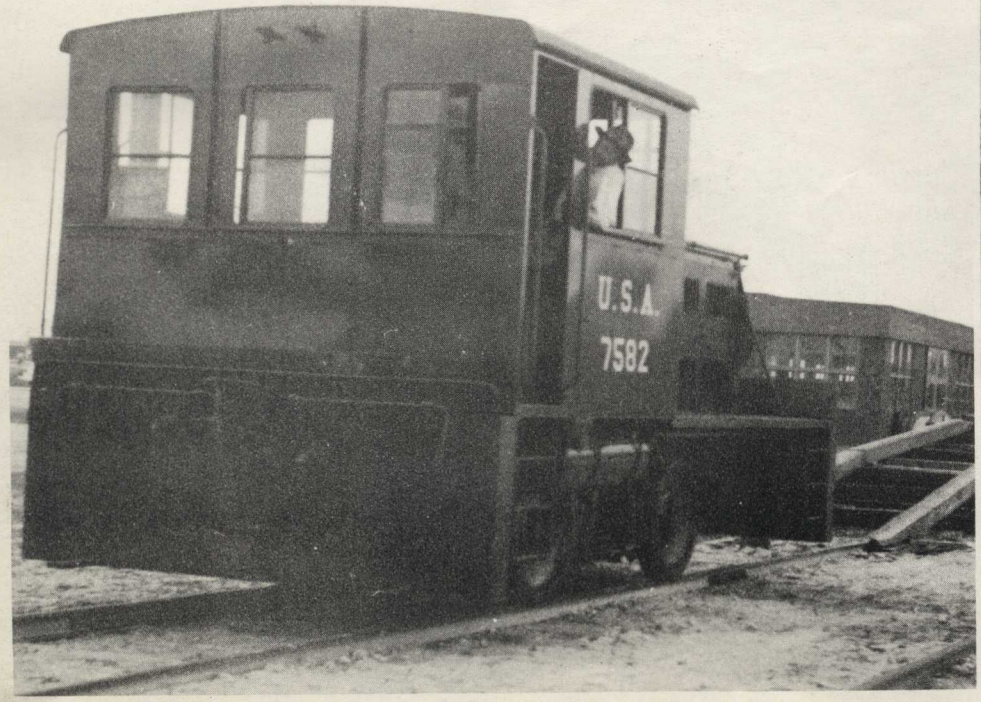
COOKS AT OFFICERS' MESS

LIBRARY

GUNNERY CONFERENCE

OFF TO SEA

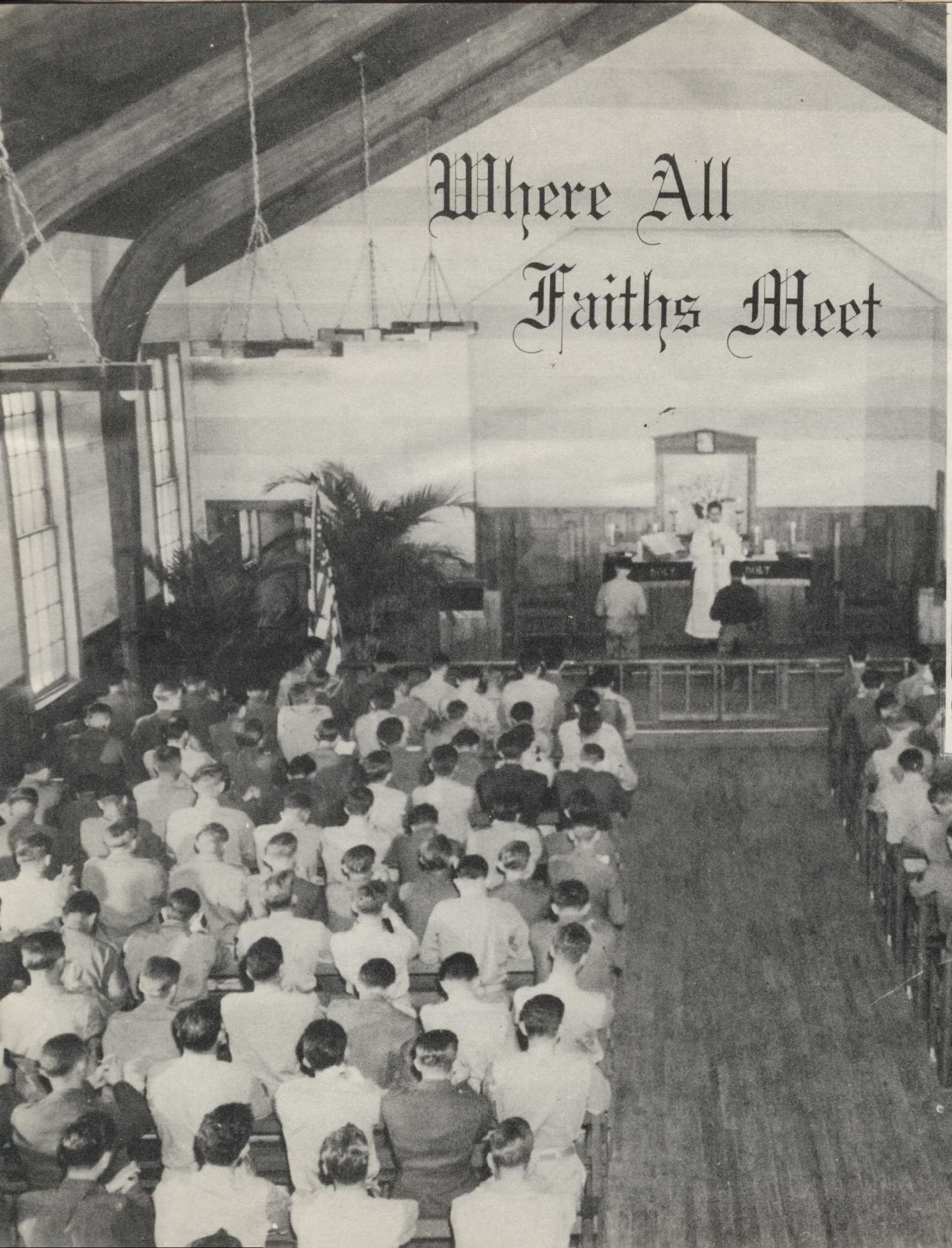
CRASH BOAT

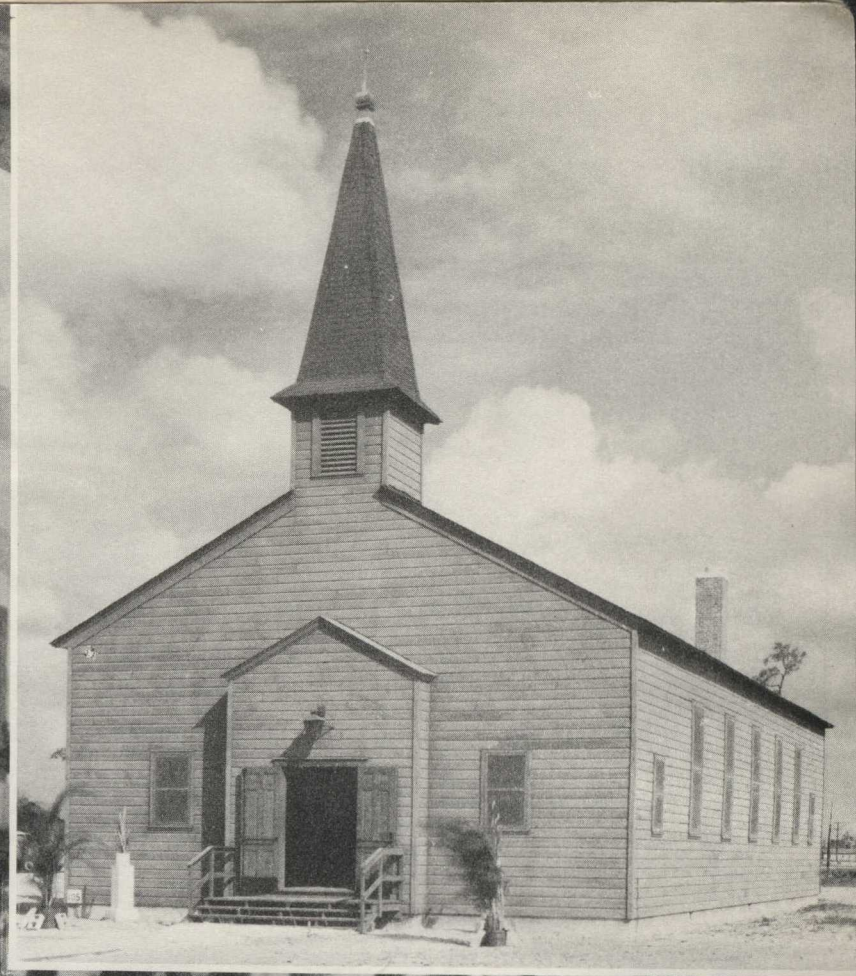


OUR LOCOMOTIVE

PART OF "OUR NAVY"

Where All Faiths Meet

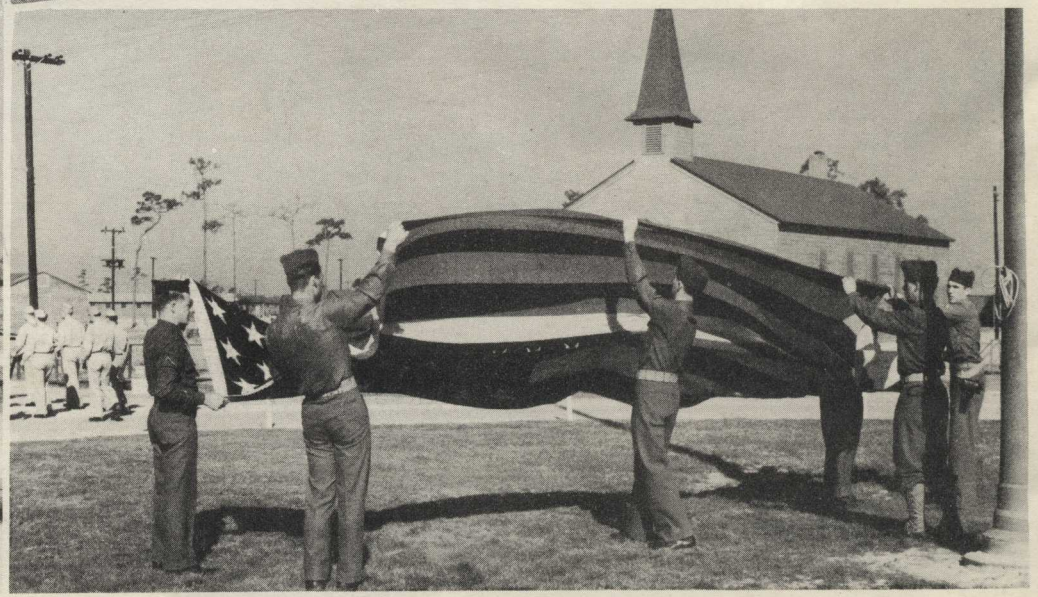




Retreat...

RETREAT AT 5 P. M.

THE FLAG IS ALMOST DOWN



THE FLAG IS DOWN

History Of Buckingham

Fort Myers, Fla. . . . A waste of palmetto thickets, dead pine trees, stumps, sand and swamp ten miles east of Fort Myers, Fla., has in a year become the foremost aerial gunnery school operated by the Army Air Forces.

For today at Buckingham Field thousands of gunners are being trained to shoot the Zeros and Messerschmidts out of the skies. Last May a few cattle lazily roamed over this land; now this sandy waste is alive with the clatter of machine guns and the roar of airplane motors.

On May 5, 1942, Major Richard W. Duggan, then a captain, arrived in Fort Myers and set up his offices in the Collier Arcade. A few days before he had flown over the waste land that was later to become Buckingham Field.

Furniture for the office was borrowed from local business men. Edward Allen, accountant, lent a typewriter and desk and Harry McWhorter and Harry Wood, real estate men, both gave a desk. Police Chief Charles Moore arranged parking space for the office and the city and county officials gave numerous maps and other office equipment to help the new gunnery school.

Four days after Major Duggan arrived, Col. Delmar T. Spivey arrived from Maxwell Field where he had been serving as project officer for the field for some time. Four days later the colonel rceived the news that he had been made a full colonel—and the celebrants were Major Duggan and Mrs. Spivey. He plunged into the thousand and one details connected with the activation of a new post.

Colonel Spivey's gracious smile and Major Duggan's ingratiating manner got the school off to a flying start. When the officers and enlisted men began to pour in, the local real estate agents were prepared to handle the crowd, and, although living here has not been always "just like home," the majority of Army families in Fort Myers have found excellent accommodations, as compared with the hovels available at many other stations.

The actual construction of the field began May 25, and the buildings were divided into two classes; those to be finished within a 75-day period and others which were to be completed within 110 days. At the peak of the work, 3,000 to 3,500 men were employed on the post, and a majority of the buildings were in serviceable condition when troops began to arrive.

The formal activation of the post came on July 5. Thus a separate entity was born for the avowed purpose of defeating our enemies. Training began September 5th, and now graduates of this school are fighting the Japs and Germans in widely separated parts of the earth. The gunnery program is essentially the same as at first, but numerous improvements and refinements have been made in the nine months since training began.

Thousands of men have been graduated since the first class received their gunner's wings early in October. The operation of the post was guided through these difficult days by Col. Spivey; he remained in command of Buckingham Field until March 23 when he left to become A-3 of the Training Center. He was succeeded by Col. D. W. Jenkins, until then the head of the Central Instructor's School. Colonel Jenkins has continued to operate the field in the same efficient manner.

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